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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: DAVIES, Christopher, Michael [CA/CA]; 78 Winnifred Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4M 2X3 (CA).

(74) Agents: CURRIER, T., Andrew et al.; TORYS LLP, Maritime Life Tower, Suite 3000 P.O. Box 270, TD Centre, 79 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5K 1N2 (CA).

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(54) Title: NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

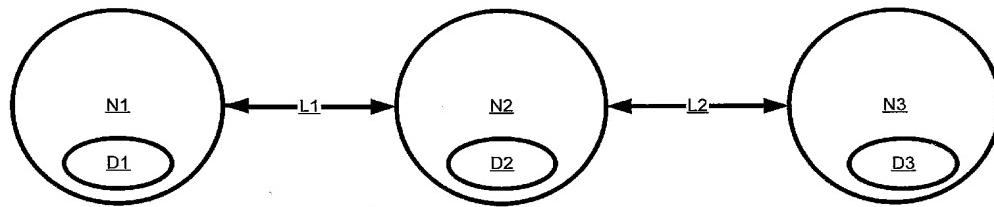


Table II
Initial contents of Database D1

Rank	Node name	Best Neighbour
Ø	N1	N/A

Table III
Initial contents of Database D2

Rank	Node name	Best Neighbour
Ø	N2	N/A

Table IV
Initial contents of Database D3

Rank	Node name	Best Neighbour
Ø	N3	N/A

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a network architecture. An embodiment includes a plurality of nodes interconnected by links. Each node can maintain knowledge of other nodes in a database. The database contains a list of other nodes in the network, and a 'next-best-step' for each of those other nodes, pointing to a neighbouring node that is the next best step to that other node. Where a particular node of the network is not in the list, then the next-best-step is assumed to be the next-best-step most commonly identified in the database. Such a network will form a "core" wherein any node in the network can find any other node in the network by first seeking out that other node at the core. Once the nodes locate each other via the core, a more optimum route forms in the network according to the most desirable path between those nodes.

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